

# SHARPEN YOUR



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## A+ COLORADO STRONGLY URGES VOTERS TO CHECK YES ON 3A AND 3B

A+ Colorado strongly urges Denver voters to support measures [3A and 3B](#) on November 8 so that every Denver student has access to a quality public education. A+ Colorado joins a long list of education and civic leaders who [endorse](#) 3A and 3B. We encourage you to find out more about the [3A and 3B campaign](#).

3A, the mill levy, will raise an additional \$56.6 million to support programming and instruction for Denver students. The investments of the mill levy will provide more social and emotional supports in schools and classrooms, additional support for teachers in leadership and coaching roles, college and career readiness opportunities, and more early childhood learning interventions and strategies. Voting yes on 3A would likely cost the average Denver property owner less than \$10 a month on a home valued at \$329,000, the median home price in the city.

While we at A+ have, in the past, raised concerns about where mill levy funds are spent, and whether we know that the funds are having the intended impact, we strongly support 3A. Denver has put forth important goals for the students it serves through the Denver Plan 2020. Reaching these goals will require investment. We know that all of Denver's schools struggle on a daily basis to meet the needs of Denver kids, whether it be behavioral counseling, academic supports for reading, or providing basics like art or PE for all students.

The bond, 3B, will support \$572 million in upgrades to many of Denver's dilapidated school buildings and provide new classrooms for the growing city. Indeed, the number of students Denver serves grew from 70,000 to over 90,000 students in the last decade. And yet, the district has the largest number of buildings in the state that are more than fifty years old (many without cooling systems). DPS needs to provide additional space and comfortable learning environments for students across the city. The good

news for Denver's taxpayers is that with increased property values, there will be no increase in property taxes for 3B.

Denver currently has one of the highest returns on investments for any large urban district. Despite spending less per student than other districts, [Denver](#) is one of the most improved and fastest growing large urban school districts in the country. We commit to Denver voters that we will continue to look at how dollars – those from the mill levy, bond, and otherwise—are spent effectively and that they positively impact our students.

A+ Colorado urges you, your neighbors, and all who vote in Denver on Tuesday, November 8 to support 3A and 3B.

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The mission of A+ Colorado is to sharpen public education by building public will and advocating for the changes necessary to dramatically increase student achievement in schools and districts in Colorado. We are an independent, nonpartisan 501(c)(3) organization working to bring the power of Colorado citizens to the effort of school reform. For more information, please visit [www.apluscolorado.org](http://www.apluscolorado.org).

